

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A knee brace for supporting a knee joint, said knee brace having a substantially rigid upper member for attachment to a thigh, a substantially rigid lower member for attachment to a calf, and first and second hinges located about an axis of said knee joint for connecting said upper and lower members together, said upper member comprising:

a lateral segment having a top end and a bottom end, said bottom end of said lateral segment coupled to said first hinge;

a medial segment having a top end and a bottom end, said bottom end coupled to said second hinge, wherein said medial segment is shorter in length than said lateral segment;

a curved segment extending around a front portion of said thigh, said curved member having lateral and medial ends, said lateral end attached to said top end of said lateral segment; and

an angled segment extending between a top end of said medial segment and a medial end of said curved top member.

2. The knee brace of claim 1 wherein said rigid upper member is formed as a single continuous piece.

3. The knee brace of claim 1 wherein said medial segment is less than 70% as long as the lateral segment.

4. The knee brace of claim 1 wherein said medial segment and said angled segment form an angle of about 45 degrees.

5. The knee brace of claim 1 wherein said curved segment extends less than 140 degrees around said front portion of said thigh.

6. The knee brace of claim 1, further comprising a first strap and a second strap for attaching said rigid upper member to said thigh.

7. The knee brace of claim 6 wherein said first strap is coupled to said lateral and medial ends of said curved portion.

8. The knee brace of claim 7, further comprising first and second rotatable coupling mechanisms for coupling said first strap to said lateral and medial ends of said curved portion.

9. A knee brace for supporting a knee joint, said knee brace having a substantially rigid upper member for attachment to a thigh, a substantially rigid lower member for attachment to a calf, and first and second hinges located about an axis of said knee joint for connecting said upper and lower members together, wherein said
5 upper rigid member is contoured to circumvent the medial superior region of said thigh to improve comfort and allow for natural movement of said thigh.

10. A pair of contoured knee brace frames, each of said knee brace frames comprising upper and lower members for fitting on a thigh and calf, respectively, said knee brace frames formed with contoured upper members configured such that said
10 upper members do not contact each other along the medial superior region of said thigh.